

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for preparing an extract of *Centella asiatica* containing a mixture of madecassoside, terminoloside and asiaticoside comprising the steps of:

- a) creating an extract by exposing the parts of *Centella asiatica* that are above ground to an alcoholic solvent to obtain an alcoholic solution;
- b) passing the alcoholic solution obtained in step a), over an anionic resin to obtain an aqueous-alcoholic eluate;
- c) selectively defatting the aqueous-alcoholic eluate obtained in step b) by liquid/liquid extraction to obtain a defatted aqueous-alcoholic phase;
- d) concentrating the defatted aqueous-alcoholic phase obtained in step c) using successive filtration to obtain an aqueous phase;
- e) passing the aqueous phase obtained in step d), over a cationic resin and then over an anionic resin; and
- f) stabilizing the aqueous phase obtained in step e) by adding alcohol to obtain a mixture comprising madecassoside, terminoloside and asiaticoside.

2. (previously presented) A method for preparing an extract of *Centella asiatica* comprising a mixture containing madecassoside and terminoloside comprising the steps of:

- a) creating an extract by exposing the parts of *Centella asiatica* that are above ground to an alcoholic solvent to obtain an alcoholic solution;
- b) passing the alcoholic solution obtained in step a), over an anionic resin to obtain an aqueous-alcoholic eluate;

- c) selectively defatting the aqueous-alcoholic eluate obtained in step b) by liquid/liquid extraction to obtain a defatted aqueous-alcoholic phase;
- d) concentrating the defatted aqueous-alcoholic phase obtained in step c) using successive filtration to obtain an aqueous phase;
- e) passing the aqueous phase obtained in step d), over a cationic resin and then over an anionic resin;
- f) stabilizing the aqueous phase obtained in step e) by adding alcohol to obtain a prepurified aqueous-alcoholic phase;
- g) separating the prepurified aqueous-alcoholic phase obtained in step f) using a chromatographic column having a stationary phase and a mobile phase; and
- h) obtaining a mixture comprising madecassoside and terminoloside.

3. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the anionic resin used in step b) is an anionic resin having a quaternary ammonium functional group.

4. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the cationic resin used in step e) is a cationic resin having a sulfonate functional group.

5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the anionic resin used in step e) is an anionic resin having a quaternary ammonium functional group.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the mobile phase of the chromatographic column in step g) is a

solvent comprising a mixture of water and ethanol, wherein the volume ratio of water/ethanol ranges from 50/50 to 90/10.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the stationary phase of the chromatographic column in step g) is an apolar stationary phase comprising grafted apolar silicas having 2 to 18 carbon atoms.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the mixture of madecassoside and terminoloside has a combined weight % greater than 95 wt% of madecassoside and terminoloside relative to the total weight of the extract.

9. - 24. (cancelled)

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of: standardizing the prepurified aqueous-alcoholic phase obtained in step f), by adding an appropriate amount of the extract of claim 9Centella asiatica having more than 95 wt % of a mixture comprising madecassoside and terminoloside relative to the total weight of the extract so that the final extract obtained has between 90 wt% and 98 wt% of madecassoside and terminoloside relative to the total weight of the final extract.

26. - 41. (cancelled)